

What is Claimed:

- 1 1. An absorbent article comprising:
2 a barrier layer;
3 a cover layer extending substantially parallel to said barrier layer; and
4 a superabsorbent polymer interposed between said cover layer and said
5 barrier layer, said superabsorbent polymer being adhered to said article in a pattern
6 configured to distribute fluid in said absorbent article, wherein at least one portion of
7 said absorbent article extending essentially completely across said absorbent article is
8 substantially devoid of said superabsorbent polymer.
- 1 2. The absorbent article of claim 1 further comprising a core
2 interposed between said cover layer and said barrier layer, wherein said
3 superabsorbent polymer is applied to said core or said barrier layer in said pattern.
- 1 3. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said pattern is configured
2 to increase resistance of said absorbent article to tearing, said at least one portion of
3 said absorbent article extending essentially completely across said absorbent article
4 being more resistant to tearing than at least one other portion of said absorbent article.
- 1 4. The absorbent article of claim 1 further comprising a core
2 interposed between said cover layer and said barrier layer, wherein said core comprises
3 at least one of cellulose and cellulose acetate.
- 1 5. The absorbent article of claim 4 wherein said core is selected from
2 the group consisting of tissue, air laid composite, and paper towel sheet.
- 1 6. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said barrier layer
2 comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene,
3 copolymers of polyethylene and polypropylene, polyester, and bi-component fibers.
- 1 7. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said cover layer
2 comprises one or both of a non-woven material and an apertured film.
- 1 8. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said pattern forms at
2 least one region including said superabsorbent polymer and at least one continuous
3 zone that is substantially devoid of said superabsorbent polymer, said continuous zone
4 having greater tear resistance than said region including said superabsorbent polymer.
- 1 9. The absorbent article of claim 8 wherein said pattern is selected
2 from the group consisting of a spiral pattern, a melt blown pattern, a multi-tracked
3 pattern, a full coat pattern, a zoned spray pattern, and an intermittent pattern.

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2 a barrier layer;
3 a cover layer extending substantially parallel to said barrier layer;
4 an absorbent layer interposed between said cover layer and said barrier
5 layer; and
6 a superabsorbent polymer applied in liquid form to said absorbent layer,
7 said superabsorbent polymer being applied in a pattern configured to distribute fluid in
8 said absorbent article, wherein portions of said absorbent layer are at least partially
9 coated with said superabsorbent polymer and other portions of said absorbent layer are
10 substantially free of said superabsorbent polymer.

1 16. An absorbent underpad comprising:
2 a barrier layer;
3 a cover layer extending substantially parallel to said barrier layer;
4 a tissue layer interposed between said cover layer and said barrier layer;
5 and
6 a superabsorbent polymer applied in liquid form to said absorbent layer,
7 said superabsorbent polymer being applied in a pattern configured to distribute fluid in
8 said absorbent article, wherein portions of said absorbent layer are at least partially
9 coated with said superabsorbent polymer and other portions of said absorbent layer are
10 substantially free of said superabsorbent polymer.